

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Syria/Lebanon

SUBJECT Communist Activities in the
Levant

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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Communist Party Meetings

It is reported that on 15 April 1948, when they had heard rumors that the Syrian and Lebanese Governments would arrest Communist leaders, several of these leaders met at the home of Ohannis Aghabashian. Those attending included:

Hasan Quraytim	from the Moslems
Mustafa Aris	from the Moslems
Ibrahim Misri	from the Moslems
Dikran Nalian	from the Armenians
Yabram Alizian	from the Armenians
Fu'ad Qazan	from the Christian Arabs
Nicola Shawi	from the Christian Arabs
Farajallah Hilu	from the Christian Arabs
Afram Shimali	from the Christian Arabs

A second meeting was held on 18 April at the home of Hasan Quraytim, and a third on 19 April at the home of Ra'if Khuri.

3. As a result of these meetings, Communist leaders decided to:
- Cease distributing circulars;
 - Discontinue contacts and avoid trouble with other groups;
 - Buy arms and ammunition secretly;
 - Collect money from members.

Relations With the Soviet Legation

4. Subsequent to these meetings a delegation composed of Ohannis Aghabashian, Mustafa Aris, and Nicola Shawi met with Russian Minister Solod to discuss the situation of the Communist Party and to request financial aid. Solod reportedly advised them that the Soviet Legation could not help openly for the present but that the Party should be patient, avoid

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conflict with local laws, and not contradict the Government's wishes. Solod then promised them financial aid to feed needy members of the Party.

Arming of North Lebanese Communists

5. It has been reported that Sulayman Ali, member of the Chamber of Deputies from North Lebanon, has been won over by the Communists. His home has become a rendezvous for Lebanese Communists and he has allegedly reported substantial help to the Party. Ali has also allegedly claimed that he can place 3,000 men at the disposal of the Communists, with whose help he could control the entire northern section of Lebanon.

6. [REDACTED] reported that Ali has requested a 25X1X quantity of light arms for his men.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The Soviet Legation may very likely provide these arms. Solod pays particular attention to this northern region because he feels it is more susceptible to communist principles than other regions in Lebanon [REDACTED]

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Arrest of Communists in Damascus

7. Rashad 'Isa of the Syrian Communist Party, who was charged recently with having fired on those who demonstrated before Communist Party headquarters in Damascus, has been freed by the Attorney General of Damascus who cancelled the examination of 'Isa for this charge. Instead the Attorney General has summoned Bahjat Baghdash, brother of Khalid Baghdash, and Faysal Rakibi for examination for this charge.
8. 'Isa was seen in Beirut during the week of 19 April. He reportedly called on Soviet Minister Solod while members of the Soviet Damascus Legation were present.

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